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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9459  
INFO RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OREP](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [AFIN](#) [MX](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR STAFFDEL MEACHAM, MEXICO  
CITY, 6-8 NOVEMBER 2007

REF: STATE 152036

¶1. Post warmly welcomes and grants country clearance to Mr. Carl Meacham for travel to Mexico City from 6-8 November 2007.

¶2. Post control officer for the visit is Deputy Political Counselor Jim Merz, telephone 52 (55) 5080-2265 or 4425; fax 52 (55) 5080-2247; cell 044 (55) 5080-2247; e-mail merzjp@state.gov. The Embassy switchboard is 011-52-55-5080-2000. Mr. Merz can also be reached in his home phone by dialing the Embassy switchboard.

¶3. Control officer and Embassy airport facilitator will be at the airport to meet Mr. Meacham.

¶4. Hotel reservations:

- Sheraton Maria Isabel (next to the Embassy)  
Paseo de la Reforma 325, Col. Cuauhtemoc  
Telephone: 011-52-55-5242-5555  
Confirmation Number: 846423055  
Embassy rate of \$193.05/per night  
(includes continental breakfast)  
Credit card information provided to Sheraton

¶5. Costs report will be provided via a separate cable as requested on paragraph 8 of SS152036.

¶6. The Department of State has designated Mexico City as a critical threat post due to the high level of crime and the ineffectiveness and corruption of Mexican law enforcement. Robberies at gunpoint, pick pocketing, purse snatching, taxicab abductions and quick-kidnappings continue to cause us concern. Any hotel selected for you by the embassy will be safe, but it is still wise to store all valuables in a room safe or in a safe deposit box. Leaving expensive-looking jewelry at home and wearing a plastic watch will significantly improve your security profile. The Embassy cautions travelers that they should never hail a cruising taxi (or "libre" taxi) but should instead use airport-sanctioned taxis, taxis operating from fixed sites ("sitios), or a cab called for you by your hotel.

¶7. Mexico does have health concerns. You should take normal tourist precautions with regard to drinking water, eating fresh fruits, vegetables and salads. Some employees react to the pollution and high altitude; so take things slowly at first. Travelers to Mexico City may require some time to adjust to the altitude (7000 ft.), which can adversely affect blood pressure, digestion, sleep, and energy level. Individuals with sickle cell trait should consult with the appropriate medical unit or their personal physician before commencing with travel. Short-term (TDY) assignments carry an added risk because of the lack of time to acclimatize. Dehydration, stress, or illnesses compound the basic risks of high altitude.

18. We encourage you to access further security and health related information as well as post access regulations for the region you are visiting at the Mission Mexico intranet homepage at <http://mexicocity.state.gov/IntraMissMex.html> or <http://www.usembassy-mexico.gov>.

Visit Mexico City's Classified Web Site at <http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/mexicocity> and the North American Partnership Blog at <http://www.intelink.gov/communities/state/nap/> / GARZA